(Quantity in thousand metric tonnes. Value in Rs. crores)

Product	*1994-95*		*1995-96*		*1996-97*	
	Quantity	*Value*	*Quantity*	*Value*	*Quantity*	*Value*
OTHER PROCESSED FOODS (Guar Gum, Cereal Preparations and Alcoholic Beverages etc.)	176.88	415.48	1007.33	1171.97	1324.07	1835.91
CEREALS (Basmati & Non-Basmati Rice).	890.60	1205.57	4914.00	4568.06	2511.96	3172.35
MARINE PRODUCTS	307.30	3575.27	296.27	3501.11	378.19	4121.36

Non-conventional energy sources in north Bihar

1740. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promote Non-Conventional Sources of Energy in Saharsa, Supaul, Madhepura and Madhubani Districts of North Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details of the schemes formulated for the Districts and the funds allotted for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government propose to promote non-conventional energy sources in the State of Bihar including in the District of Saharsa, Supaul, Madhepura and Madhubani.

(b) The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources does not formulate schemes or allot funds under its various programmes, District-wise. The Ministry has allocated a target of installation of 500 family type biogas plants and 20,000 improved chulhas, to be set up in the State of Bihar during 1998-99. In addition, the Ministry is also implementing a wide range of other programmes for the promotion of non-conventional energy sources such as Biomass gasification and Briquetting, Solar thermal water heating, Solar photovoltaic home-lighting, lanterns, Water pumping for irrigation and Village level power plants, Grid connected power from Wind energy, Small hydro, Biomass combustion, Bagasse-based Co-generation and Solar photovoltaic energy and energy from Urban and industrial wastes, which cover the whole country including the State of Bihar.

Biomass Assessment Study in Gujarat

1741. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated biomass assessment studies in various parts of Gujarat for setting up biomass power project in the State;

(b) if so, the details and findings thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to tap the potentials of non-conventional energy sources in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Under its Biomass Assessment Programme, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources had during 1996-97 sponsored

biomass assessment studies in 12 Talukas of Gujarat, namely, Vyara, Dholka, Gondal, Ch. Udaipur, Pavi Jetpur, Bhuj, Limdi, Jhagadia, Dev Gadh Baria, Deesa, Vav and Dangs. The studies have indicated surplus availability of biomass comprising agricultural residues, agro-processing wastes, forestry residues, etc., varying from 50,000 to 2,50,000 tonnes per annum. This could support biomass power projects of 2-10 MW capacity in each of these talukas. Such studies will be undertaken during 1998-99 in five more talukas of the State.

(c) The Central Government provides capital subsidy, interest subsidy, fiscal incentives and soft loans from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA), for renewable energy projects in the country, including Gujarat. Such assistance is available for biogas plants; improved chulhas; solar photovoltaic devices and systems; biomass gasifiers; solar water and air heating systems; and, grid-connected, as well as decentralised power generation projects, based on solar energy, wind energy, small hydro and biomass. Resource assessment studies and surveys are being supported to identify potential areas for such projects. The State policy for renewable energy projects has expired on 31st March, 1998.

National Dung Policy

1742. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to formulate National Dung Policy to harness optimum utilisation of dung potential to meet growing rural energy requirement;

(b) the details of investment made in harnessing energy potential of bio-gas so far and results achieved thereunder;

(c) the significant achievements made and areas of concern noticed and correction proposed to be carried out, State-wise; and

(d) whether Government are working on a Comprehensive National Dung Policy beyond 2000 AD; if so, the details thereof alongwith State-wise breakup?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir. However, the Government has been promoting setting up of biogas plants in all States and Union Territories to harness the cattle-dung potential for meeting the growing rural energy requirements.

(b) An estimated total investment of about Rs. 2800 crore, including Central financial assistance of about Rs. 895 crore sanctioned under National Project on Biogas Development (NPBD) and Community, Institutional and Night-soil based Biogas Plants (CBP/IBP/NBP) Programme has been made for installing a cumulative total of over 27.13 lakh family type and 2360 large sized biogas plants in the country.

(c) State-wise total number of biogas plants set up so far is given in the Statement (*see* below). These plants are estimated to generate biogas equivalent to saving of about 86 lakh tonnes of fuelwood per year. Besides, about 410 lakh tonnes of enriched manure is also produced per year. Two important areas of concern are low production of biogas during winter months and inadequate maintenance facilities at village level. To overcome these problems, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has initiated research on improving the biogas production at low temperatures in four institutions during the last two years and has been involving a large number of entrepreneurs and non-governmental organisations in the construction of biogas plants on a turn-key basis with first three years' free maintenance warranty.

(d) No, Sir. However, the physical targets proposed for setting up of biogas